

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION:

Please add the following new paragraph after the first paragraph beginning on page 6, line 1, which starts "FIGURE 4 is a schematic representation":

FIGURE 5 is a representation of the paging in and paging out of chunks of data from the virtual disk transfer system.

Please replace the second paragraph beginning on page 11, line 11, which starts with "in a preferred embodiment", with the following amended paragraph:

In a preferred embodiment data transfer uses an intermediary process, called VDISK (for virtual disk), which appears to both the sending and receiving processes like regular disk, with the ability to open files and directories, read and write files, etc. Unlike regular disk, VDISK provides the functionality that it may include a remote transfer (if the receiving process is on another node in a networked system), and because it knows whether the sending process has "closed" the file, it knows whether the receiving process should receive an end of file signal or be blocked on an attempt to read beyond the last data written. VDISK is implemented by a process providing a shared-memory interface for the receiving process, for local accesses. The VDISK implementation provides for more data being written to VDISK than fits into memory 504 by paging out blocks 505 of data in a most-recently-used order 502, because the least recently used (written) pages 501 will be needed (read) soonest. Other than providing a transparent networked file system interface, blocking reads before end of file, and most-recently-used paging, VDISK operates much like a conventional RAM disk 503.